

BEYOND THE GRAVES

Volume 7, Number 1, January 2012

BEYOND RYDE CEMETERY

ST THOMAS', BINSTED, ASHEY

IN THE BEGINNING...



Ryde Social Heritage Group was formed by a small group of friends in 2002 and became a formally constituted group in 2005. Since 2002 we have been recording information from Ryde Cemetery, producing maps and recording inscriptions, and we search through archives to find biographical information relating to the people buried there. We are also researching the people, businesses, development and significant events that happened in Ryde. We collect documents, information and artefacts relating to Ryde and have a growing archive which we make available to the public.

RSHG also stated at its outset that it would investigate all aspects of the history contained within Ryde cemeteries. For a decade now, we have been concentrating on Ryde Cemetery with its many thousands of burials and indeed we still are – the Pellhurst Road gate, and completion of the project, remains a few more years away for the transcribing group!

However, in recent years we have found it necessary to research and link more with other cemeteries within the Ryde area. As our fame has spread, and interest in family history has increased, we are contacted by people worldwide who often have other family members buried elsewhere within the locality. Indeed on more than one occasion David Earle has found people wandering round Ryde Cemetery looking for long lost loved ones and has had to re-direct them to the St Thomas' Churchyard, Binsted or Ashley Cemeteries.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH and BURIAL GROUND

St Thomas' Church is located in the centre of Ryde in St Thomas' Square. In 1719 Thomas Player, lord of the Manor of Ryde, had the first Chapel built, a Chapel of Ease to Newchurch. In the early 19th century, the population of Ryde was expanding as it became a popular watering place, and so the chapel was enlarged to accommodate the increasing congregation but eventually this still did not provide adequate space. The chapel was demolished in 1826 and rebuilt on a larger scale in 1827 by George Player, grandson of the founder. In 1822 Elizabeth Lydia, younger daughter and co-heiress of George Player, married Captain Thomas Robert Brigstocke RN and ownership of the church passed to them on George Player's death. It remained in the Brigstocke family's possession until 1956 when George Robert Brigstocke, the last in his line, passed away. The last service was held in the church in 1959, after which it closed. Over the years it fell into disrepair but a Friends of St Thomas' was established, funds were raised and restoration took place. Currently owned by the Isle of Wight Council, St Thomas' remains unoccupied and mainly unused. A few times a year it is open for cultural events.



Initially the first burials in the oldest part of Ryde Cemetery were an overflow for St Thomas' Churchyard and were recorded in the St Thomas' Church burial register. Some of the burials in Ryde Cemetery had previous generations of their family buried at St Thomas'. When the churchyard was turned into a garden of rest in the 1980s many of the headstones were removed and unfortunately today it is difficult to locate many of the burials. New maps of St Thomas' Church graveyard have been produced by David Earle, using the old maps hand drawn by Jack Wheeler in the 1970s. There are four maps covering the area of the churchyard and an alphabetical list of burials spanning 12 pages available on the RSHG website. Inside the church there are still some fine memorials to the lords of the Manor and many other notable residents of Ryde, and some beautiful and unique stained glass windows.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



The windows at the east end of the church commissioned by Miss Mary Harriette Player Brigstocke, the then owner of the church, were installed in 1883 and depict St Thomas with the Lord.

They were made in the studios of Alexander Booker in London and are reputed to be similar to windows in the Certosa monastery near Pavia in Italy.

The colours of the glass are beautiful, with St Thomas depicted in robes of the richest red. At the request of Miss Brigstocke, the figures are portrayed without a halo.

After Miss Brigstocke died in 1904, elaborate Caen stone enclosing three white marble panels was installed beneath the windows, the centre panel being inscribed to her memory whilst on either side Faith and Charity are depicted.

DR ALEXANDER GEORGE DAVEY – DOCTOR OF MEDICINE



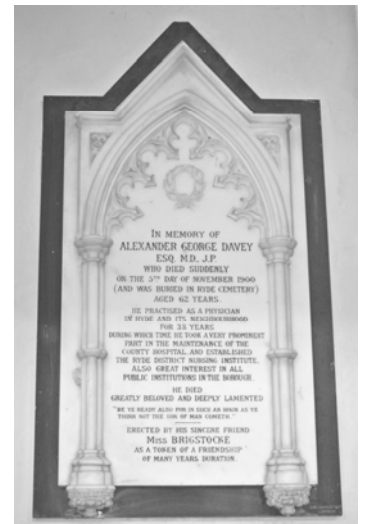
Dr Davey from IW Observer
November 1900

Dr Alexander George Davey is best remembered for his work in connection with the Isle of Wight County Hospital, Ryde; he was instrumental in the building of the Children's wing and an endowment fund was raised principally owing to his energy and influence.

Dr Davey, a General Practitioner, came to Ryde in 1862 as a partner of Dr Barrow. He soon started in practice by himself and gained a reputation for his medical skills, care and kindness. He took a great interest in everything that could benefit the people of Ryde and gave 40 years dedicated service to the hospital, taking a keen interest in the management of the institution. Many of the improvements and alterations to the hospital owe their inception and successful realisation to his energies and ability.

Throughout his career, he maintained strong connections with the Ryde District Nursing for the Sick Poor that he initiated.

Dr Alexander George Davey died in his sleep in November 1900 after returning from the management meeting in Newport where he delivered his final accounts for the Children's Wing of the hospital. His funeral took place on Friday morning, 9 November 1900 at St Thomas Church, Ryde amidst extraordinary demonstrations of respect. A large congregation had assembled and no less than 24 carriages joined the procession from the church to Ryde Cemetery. The final ceremony at the graveside was performed by Rev C R Hall assisted by Rev W M Cameron before the coffin was placed in a family vault in the southern end of the cemetery.



DR DAVEY MEMORIAL, ST THOMAS' CHURCH

A very handsome monument to the memory of the late Dr Davey was erected on the south wall inside St Thomas' Church. It is of pure white statuary marble on a black marble ground. A gothic head rests on columns with caps and bases, and underneath a beautifully carved wreath is the inscription.

In Monkton Street a building was erected to commemorate his invaluable work for the sick and needy of the town. Today the building is converted to flats but a memorial plaque can still be seen on the front.

BINSTEAD CEMETERY



Binstead was originally a small parish cemetery with a mortuary chapel, the land given by John B Willis-Fleming Esq. It is one of the earliest municipal cemeteries on the Island, (Ryde Cemetery 1842, Northwood 1856), so a lot of its early architecture, monuments and inscriptions are of a similar style to Ryde. The first interment was of William Banning, Gentleman, aged 72, on 11 February 1857.

"The cemetery is situated on an eminence, on the left side of the main road from Ryde to Newport; it is neatly surrounded with shrubs; it comprises about one acre of land, and has a chapel for all denominations."

Hill's Historical & Commercial Directory of the IW 1879

The cemetery was absorbed by Ryde Borough Council in 1933 under the Isle of Wight Union Act. A new extension was opened in the 1940s and another in the mid 1960s.

CENTENARIAN'S DEATH

An Island Centenarian passed away on Saturday in the person of Mrs Ann Saunders. The deceased was something of a celebrity by the reason of the fact that HRH Princess Henry of Battenberg took a good deal of interest in the old lady, and when she celebrated her 101st birthday in September HRH sent her a brooch set with emeralds and rubies together with a kind letter of congratulation.

Mrs Saunders lived at Wootton with her eldest daughter aged eighty, and her descendants number five living daughters, fourteen grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren. She and her daughter have both been in receipt of an old age pension since the passing of the Act.

Mrs Saunders was a very remarkable woman, because despite her years, she took a lively interest in all that was going on, and to the last was able to get about. She was able to read without the aid of glasses and her needlework is said to have been wonderfully fine. Her memory never failed her, but though she was full of reminiscences of the past, they were not always happy ones, and she was fond of saying that the present times were best for everyone, and particularly for the poor.

The remains of the old lady were interred in Binstead Cemetery on Wednesday.

Isle of Wight Observer Saturday 6 May 1911

BINSTEAD CONSECRATION - ORNAMENTS IN CEMETERY CHAPEL

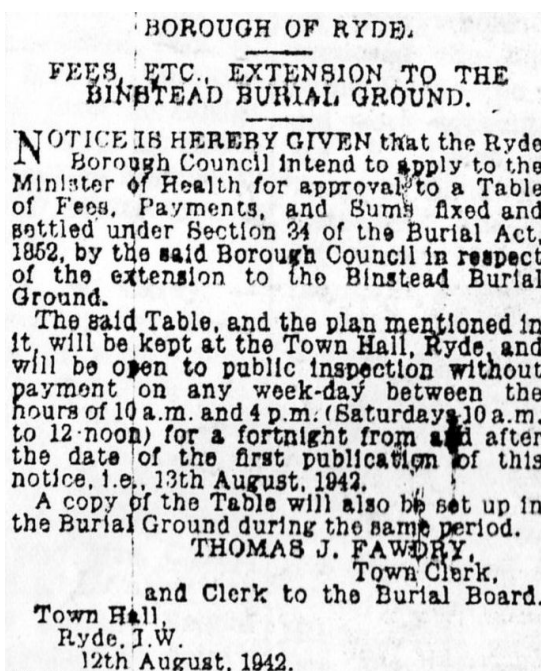
The Archdeacon, the Ven. C W Hampton Weeks, performed the ceremony of consecration of the gifts and ornaments at Binstead Cemetery Chapel on Friday. He was assisted by the Rural Dean of the East Wight, the Rev A C Durham.

Gifts to be consecrated were the cross, memorial to the late Mr Charles Gordon-Reid, the candlesticks in memory of Miss Mary Henrietta Tattnall, vase to Mr Charles Bertram Stooks, the late rector's son, and the prie dieu, in memory of the late rector himself.

The arrangements for the ceremony had been made by the late Mr Stooks shortly before his death, and he had personally obtained permission from the Ryde Borough Council. The Bishop, who had hoped to be present on the date previously arranged for the consecration, which was postponed by Mr Stooks death, was unavoidably prevented from being present.

Among those who witnessed the ceremony were Mr H V Taylor (chairman of the Borough of Ryde Cemeteries Committee), Mr Venus, Mr Mootham, Mrs Gordon-Reid and Mr W Jeffery.

Isle of Wight Times Thursday 7 September 1939



Isle of Wight County Press 12 August 1942

BINSTEAD FOOTBALLERS 1923

An annual friendly match between Binstead and a team of Ryde Amateurs took place on the Binstead Recreation ground. Binstead won easily by five goals to one. The visitors won the toss and kicked off with the wind in their favour, but were soon on the defensive, and before half-time, Mackett – who was playing centre forward and put up a good show – had credited himself with two goals and Venus with one, ends being changed with the score 3 – 0 in Binstead's favour.

In the second half, with the wind behind them, the home side had still more of the play, but only added a further two goals, one of which was scored by Mackett – who thus brought off the hat trick. The Ryde Amateurs succeeded in getting through the home defence on one occasion and Parry notched their only point, the final result being: Binstead 5, Ryde Amateurs 1.



At the close of the match, Binstead, who for the second successive season finished at the head of the Island League Division II (Eastern section), were presented with the Championship Cup and medals, Miss Isa Arthur making the presentation and her father (Mr G H Arthur, President of the Isle of Wight Football Association) congratulated the club and its members on their success.

On the call of the Captain (Mr F Tyler) cheers and the Binstead whisper were given for Mr and Miss Arthur, and the company then adjourned to the Fleming Arms where the Cup, adorned with the Club colours, was filled by the host – Mr A H Harvey, himself a strong supporter of the Club – and the health of the team and its supporters was drunk amidst much enthusiasm.

Isle of Wight Times 17 May 1923

THE HON. MISS VEREKER

The Hon. Miss Katherine Vereker, eldest daughter of the third Viscount Gort, died on July 27th, in her 95th year, at The Pitts, Binstead, Isle of Wight, the residence of her sister-in-law, the Hon. Mrs Henry Vereker.

The first part of the funeral service took place at the Binstead Parish Church, the officiating clergyman being the Rev G Davey, MA. The hymns sung were "Peace, perfect peace," and "Now the labourer's task is o'er." The remainder of the service was at the graveside in Binstead Cemetery...

The body was enclosed in a metallic shell, with handsome outer casket of polished English oak, having panelled sides and triple raised lid, furnished with eight massive mediæval brass handles and plate engraved:

THE HONOURABLE KATHERINE VEREKER

Died 27th July, 1910

Isle of Wight Observer Saturday 6 August 1910

SOMETHING IN THE AIR

Since we have started recording more information on the people buried in Binstead Cemetery we have noticed how long-lived many of the residents were. We have already mentioned Mrs Ann Saunders the centenarian, the Hon. Miss Katherine Vereker aged 94, and Mrs Florence Clarke, who lived until her mid eighties.

The Isle of Wight Times in March 1928 recorded a nonagenarian's death, that of Mrs Emily Elizabeth James, of Elmwood, Nineham Road who had lived in the village for about half a century. *"Although she was rather frail she was very active for her age."* Unfortunately she fell in the scullery, having just collected two jugs of milk from the milkman and placed them in the pantry. Her daughter, who had been living with her for five years, found her, helped her to bed and called Dr Edwards. Sadly, *"although she never complained of anything she was unable to get out of bed again"* and died just over a week later. An inquest was held at the house and conducted by Deputy-Coroner F A Joyce Esq.

Dr Edwards stated that *"deceased had fractured her right thigh and death was due to shock and exhaustion."* Mr Joyce remarked *"that very old people usually succumbed to accidents of this character."*

"The funeral took place on Friday afternoon last, the first part of the service being held at the Wesleyan Chapel, Binstead where deceased attended for many years. There were many friends and relatives present to pay their last tribute of respect to one who was much admired."

ASHEY CEMETERY



War Memorial, Ashy Cemetery

The Ashy Cemetery land was purchased by the old Isle of Wight Rural District Council from Ashy Manor Estate in 1910.

Mr William Beere, of Colenutts Road, Haylands, was appointed caretaker and grave digger of the new burial ground at Upton. It was also decided to place a turnstile gate at the side of the ground, giving access at all times from the bridle road at the lower side. "A wheel bier has been provided, which will be at the disposal of the parishioners on payment of a reasonable fee, for use outside the cemetery. Tools have been obtained and the ground will be ready for interments as soon as the Home Secretary gives his approval and a part is consecrated by the Bishop."

Isle of Wight Observer 9 July 1910

At a meeting of the Ashy Parish Council at the Congregational Schoolroom, Haylands in October 1910, "Dissatisfaction having been expressed by several members as to the state of the burial ground owing to the failure of the caretaker to carry out his duties according to agreement", full consideration was given to the matter and they decided to terminate the contract with Mr Beere after only three months and appoint Mr J Dimmick in his place.

Isle of Wight Observer 8 October 1910

"It was reported that owing to the severe frost and subsequent thaw, the wall on the north side of the burial ground had been seriously affected, and the top had gone over so much that it became necessary to have it strutted up at once."

Isle of Wight Observer 21 January 1911

The annual parish meeting was held at the Congregations Schoolroom on Tuesday evening when Mr J H Grimes presided...The wall of the burial ground has been rebuilt by Mr J J Barton, with no expense to the Parish, and the arrangements made for interments etc., seem to be working satisfactory.

Isle of Wight Observer 30 March 1912

Ashy Cemetery was absorbed by Ryde Borough Council in 1933 under the Isle of Wight Union Act. It has some conservation land and is in a very pleasant situation with lovely views.

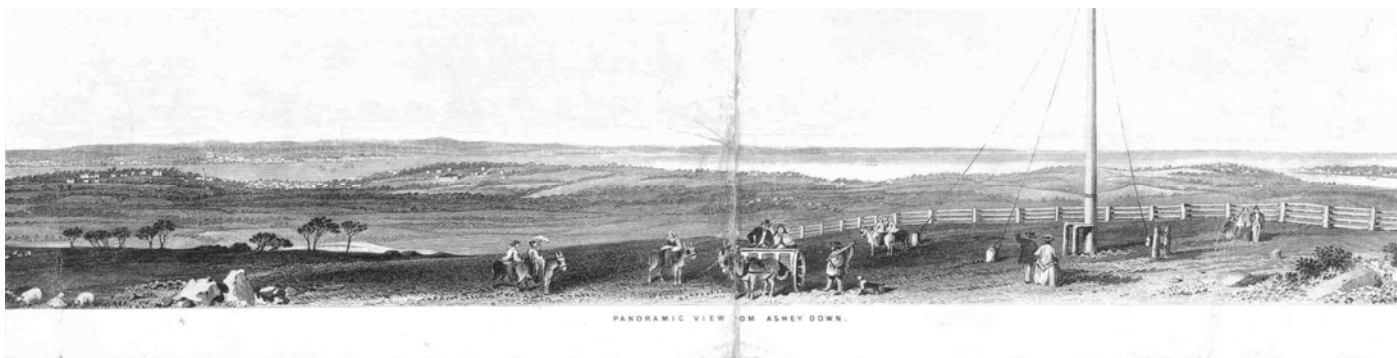
ASHEY WAR MEMORIAL

The memorial is a simple wooden cross, on a two stage stone base, with a bronze plaque. The oaktimber came from the Oglander estate. It was originally installed in St Matthew's Church in Ashy and dedicated on 2 May 1921 by the Vicar of Ryde (the Rev Hugh le Fleming) assisted by the Vicar of Brading (the Rev C W Hampden Weekes) and the Rev D E Hunter.

ASHEY MEMORIAL.

In honour to those belonging to the parish who made the supreme sacrifice in the war, a memorial has been erected in the West end of the small Church at Ashy which is included in the ecclesiastical district of Ryde. It consists of a large oak cross made from timber on the Oglander Estate, placed on a stone basis. A bronze plate bears the name of the fallen heroes, viz. Henry G. Butchers. Arthur E. Coombes, Charles E. Downer, Edgar J. Salmon, John Morey. Edwin Kennedy, William G. Silvester, William Newnham, and Harold J. Whittington, and the following inscription. These, in the glorious morning of their days, for England call lost all but England's praise." The dedication service took place on Monday evening, the 2nd, the Vicar of Ryde, (the Rev. Hugh le Fleming) officiated, assisted by the Vicar of Brading (the Rev. C. W. Hampden Weekes) and the Rev. D. E. Hunter. At the close an adjournment was made to a neighbouring field where a Rogation service was conducted for a blessing on the harvest.

Isle of Wight Observer 7 May 1921



Panoramic view from Ashy Down from the Isle of Wight Record Office collection

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, ASHEY



St Matthew's Church and Congregational Chapel

The foundation stone of St Matthew's Church, situated near the junction of Ashey Road and Green Lane, was laid by Lady Oglander in 1878. It was a mission church to, and served by, the clergy of All Saints Church, Ryde. In 1899 Langdons, builders of Ryde, constructed a Sunday school room next to the church at a cost of £50. The church was used on a regular basis until the 1950s when it was deconsecrated and it became a private dwelling in the 1970's. The War Memorial was relocated to Ashey Cemetery at about that time.

The adjoining Congregational Chapel (shown on the right) was sold to Ryde Borough Council for road widening in the 1920s.

Source: Tony Gale

GROUP CAPTAIN BERTIE MANN

Group Captain Bertie Mann died on 30 December 2009, aged 90, an RAF pilot whose career spanned biplanes to supersonic fighters. After flying Wapitis on India's North-West Frontier he commanded a Hurricane squadron engaged on reconnaissance, close air support and escort missions during the campaign in Burma. On returning to Britain he took command of No 268 Squadron flying Mustangs, and on May 24 1944 successfully undertook a dangerous photographic reconnaissance mission over Boulogne despite heavy anti-aircraft fire. His No 2 was hit and severely wounded, but Mann nursed him back to an emergency landing, a feat that earned him an immediate Distinguished Flying Cross. In his postwar career he commanded RAF Kai Tak in Hong Kong and served at SHAPE.

Group Captain Bertie Mann is buried in Ashey Cemetery with his wife Winifred.

Source: The Telegraph, Lives Remembered 13 January 2010, Tim Mann (son).



Group Captain Bertie Mann

WE NEED YOUR HELP

to

GO BEYOND



Have you any tales to tell about Binstead or Ashey? Have you any documents or photographs we could copy for our archive and share with others? Please assist us in our research. Thank you, in anticipation.